

RADIO TOWER one year old

On the 10th of September, the station celebrated her first anniversary.

The station was for the first time on air in June of 1988 with test programs on both 41 and 44 meters. After having contacted fellow stations in England the frequency was changed in 6240 kc in the 48 meter band.

On the 11th of September that year, it all started and the program line-up included a German Service hosted by Tom Clay, a Mailbag program brought by Pim v.d. Horst and a Dx-program by Peter de Jong. The regular programs were aired every second Sunday and started at ten Central European Time. This lasted

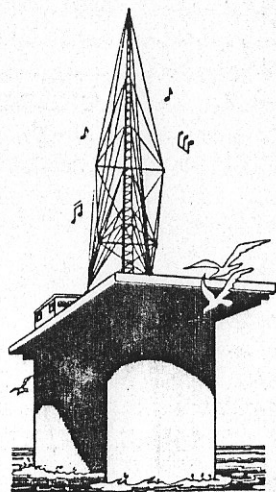
till the end of the year and the reactions were outstanding with reports from all around Europe.

During the first two months of 1989 the transmitter was used for the relay of stations and for tests in the 31 and 19 meter band.

April saw the return of Tower with, what should had been, regular programs. That month the first Swedish program was aired on 48 meters but due to some audio problems not much of the program could be heard. In June everything was of a better quality and that day the Swedish program could be heard in full. That same day the first special was aired about the Dutch group the Golden Earring who celebrated her 26st birthday. September the 10th it was time to celebrate Tower's first year on air and this was done in German, English and Swedish. Because of the special day a program by Peter de Jong and Pim v.d. Horst was aired with a lot of info about Caroline, the station itself and also a competition held.

In future the stations hopes to reach more listeners and has therefor changed it's frequency to 9912 kc in the 31 meter band.

Peter de Jong wishes to thank his mum also Tom, Carl, Pim, Karen, Peter Verbruggen and all the listeners for the past year.



THE magazine for free radio enthusiasts.....

« FRS * GOES * DX »

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ATLANTIC

252

L O N G W A V E R A D I O

28 PAGES OF FREE RADIO INFORMATION INCLUDING

- * DETAILED REPPORT ROSS REVENGE RAID
- * COMMUNICATOR & NANNELL LATEST
- * ATLANTIC 252: THE LONG WAVE GIANT
- * COMPREHENSIVE SHORT WAVE COLUMN

'FRS GOES DX' is a monthly radio magazine which informs about radio in general and free radio in particular. 'FRS GOES DX' is a publication of the Free Radio Service Holland, an independent short wave station, broadcasting to Europe since August 1980.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

An annual subscription costs DM 21.50/ f 21.50/ £ 6.25 (Europe). If you live outside Europe an annual membership costs US\$ 13.00. Payments are accepted in cash or via eurocheques. Other cheques are also accepted but then 15% has to be added!

Sample copies can be obtained for three inc's/ 4x 80pf or 8x 40pf German stamps/ 4x 75ct Dutch stamps/ £ 1.00 cash or st.

CORRESPONDENCE-ADDRESS

'FRS GOES DX',
P.O.Box 2727, 6049 ZG Herten,
The Netherlands.

Use this address for:

- * renewing your membership
- * correspondence with regard to the magazine
- * complaints about sending

Letters, news, comments etc. are more than welcome and highly appreciated!

ADVERTISING

For full or half page advertisements contact us and we'll make a quotation. Small ads: non-commercial adverts, relating to the radio-hobby, are free for members.

Commercial adverts (small) cost DM 3.00/ £ 1.00/ f 3.00/ 3 inc's. We also accept German, Dutch or English stamps.

CORRESPONDENTS / REPORTERS

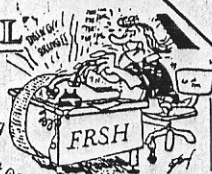
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EDITORIAL



With typical autumnal weather outside, I'm trying to finish off this double issue. Due to several reasons, strictly private, it was impossible to keep to the planned date being Sept. 22nd. Our sincere apologies. What we have tried to do is to inform you with the most important happenings of the past 2 months. That implicates not all the news is as up-to-date as usual. But that's a logical result of our Summer Holiday break. I guess most of you will have some understanding for this situation. The August raid on the Ross Revenge is already past. Nevertheless we've decided to inform you as detailed as possible. The whole story has been sorted out and compiled and it differs from most other magazines because it's longer and more detailed. Perhaps some new facts will be read by you. Due to the very comprehensive offshore section, a few other stories will be published in next month's edition. For instance the Radio 270 Story. During the past few weeks we experienced some problems with exchanging foreign cheques at our local bank. Especially UK cheques mean we have to pay high costs for exchanging the cheques, even more than 15% Best for English readers is to send us an Int. Moneyorder or to pay with an so-called Eurocheque. But it must be filled in in Dutch guilders (HFL). Doing this means less problems for us! So please help us. Welcome to those reading this magazine for the very first time. Because AUK's 'Weekly Report' and 'RadioTelex' aren't published anymore, quite some UK and German radio enthusiasts have written to us asking for a sample copy. To all of you: enjoy reading this issue!!!

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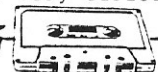
73's, Peter V.

«FRS Newscorner»

What has happened with FRS-Holland in the past few months? I'm sure a lot of you are curious to have an answer on that particular question. Originally it was planned to have a Summerholiday break in July. In August FRSH would return to the airwaves with new jingles etc. To introduce these changes in August was not just any choice: August would be the celebration of our 9th Birthday. However: already soon it became clear that it was impossible to have everything worked out before the end of August. As a result it was decided to stay off the air as long as our plans weren't finished. In the meantime a lot of preparations have been done and step by step our plans become reality. Jingles are nearly finished. Also new up-to-date promos for the magazine and FRS Sales Productions. Programme wise a few new ideas will be introduced but generally speaking the FRSH format won't change too much. Never change a winning team.... Anyway, give it a try on the 3rd Sunday in November on 7310 kHz. Looking at the month of December, it's almost certain there'll be a lengthy (5 or 6 hour) X-Mas broadcast on 41 metres. More info about X-Mas in the November transmission. Basically the idea will be the same as in the past: listeners will be invited to participate in our pxs by sending X-Mas Greetings and New Year's Greetings. Hopefully there will be more people participating compared with 1988.

As you may remember our last trm took place June 25th (on 7310 Kc). Because we didn't receive that many reports from British DX-ers we contacted AUK. It was a coincident that they didn't publish details about the SW scene on that particular Sunday in their 'Weekly Report' (because of lack of space). But Barry was so kind to send us the details about that particular Sunday. We were very curious how the 7310 signal had been in compare with other stations on Sun 25th of June. Here are a few quotations: "The best by far was 7310 and this even rivalled its adjacent neighbour (BBC WS) for volume although its signal level was understandably lower." And: "FRSH was by far the best signal today". This must remove the last doubts by those thinking our signal isn't satisfactory!! What I'm trying to say is that the choice of a 41 mb frequency was a good one. FRSH will continue on 41 metres in the future.

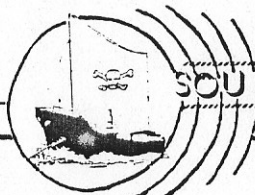
FRS SALES-PRODUCTIONS



* RADIO VERONICA WAS THE FIRST OFFSHORE RADIO STATION IN WESTERN EUROPE. SHE RULED THE AIRWAVES IN THE NETHERLANDS FOR A PERIOD OF 14 YEARS. THE EXCITING LIFE OF RADIO VERONICA IS TO BE SEEN ON AN IMPRESSIVE VIDEO CALLED 'THE VERONICA HISTORY'. 141 MINUTES VERONICA. THE EARLY DAYS, THE STUDIOS ON LAND, THE SHIP, STORMS, FREQUENCY-CHANGE, THE END AS AN OFFSHORE STATION, THE RETURN AS A BROADCASTING SOCIETY. THE STORY IS NARRATED IN DUTCH, IS IN COLOUR AND THE PICTURE QUALITY IS GOOD. WE OFFER YOU THIS TAPE ONLY THIS MONTH FOR DM 49.95/ £ 14.99!

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SOUNDS FROM OFFSHORE

THE theme of this month's off-shore report ofcourse is the raid on the radioship MV Ross Revenge on Saturday August 19th 1989. A black day in the history of Offshore Radio and particularly a black day in Caroline's 25 year period of broadcasting from the high and FREE waters of the Northsea. Ironically it was almost exactly 6 years ago (at the day of the raid) when Caroline recommenced transmissions from a new ship called the Ross Revenge..... Remember Saturday August 20th 1983 when a powerful 963 signal, emanating from the Ross, marked a new era in Caroline's broadcasting history. August remains a very special month in the history of offshore radio. August 14th, August 19th, August 20th and August 31st (1967, 1983, 1989 and 1974). The now following report has been compiled with the help of a number of persons. Without their help I would not have been able to do this giant job. Although our report is not as up-to-date as a number of reports in other free radio publications (because August was our holiday-month), I'm pretty sure most of you will be satisfied with the given information as it is very comprehensive and will reveal facts you haven't read in other reports. Fact is some of the informations we've been receiving from our reporters are different from each other, in other words: the one is inconsistent with the other. As we want to be NO judge, we've decided to publish both reports. You may draw your personal conclusion. We've also published an official Caroline press bulletin, a number of news reports from different European news agencies. All in all a very detailed and comprehensive report. We are curious about your comments. Let us know what your opinion is and send it to our new and official address: FRSH, c/o 'FRS Goes DX', P.O.Box 2727, 6049 KP Herten, The Netherlands. One final remark: the report has been compiled as much as possible in chronicle order!

Wednesday August 16th 1989

Premises in a number of European countries are raided. A number of persons are arrested, several others are interviewed. A total of 27 adressess in The Netherlands and Belgium are raided (20 Dutch and 7 Belgian premises). The Dutch State Police is acting by the public prosecutor's order. It is clear the action has been carefully prepared. And these preparations didn't start a few weeks before the actual raids; months, many months preceding the raids were used to prepare the whole action in detail. The public prosecutor in Amsterdam acted, on his turn, by the Ministry of Transport and Public Works' order. As you understand most of the actions took place in The Netherlands. The authorities were willing to lay open the activities of Radio 819. Several persons, in one way or another involved with Radio 819, were 'visited' to collect solid evidence of their involvements. Hans W., husband of Ria Valk (the latter presented a taped show on Radio 819 on weekdays) and living in Loosdrecht, was one of the first persons who got a visit. Also the studios of Crown Music Media were visited by the Dutch State Police. In these studios all the syndicated/taped 819 pxs were recorded. But that wasn't illegal: the shows are broadcasted on a number of Belgian FM stations and on Europort Radio in Rotterdam. No station name is mentioned on the tapes. The fact these tapes are also played on Radio 819 is a so-called coincident and the presenters can't be blamed for this. As long as they do not

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«FRS GOES DX» THE MAGAZINE FOR FREE RADIO ENTHUSIASTS

mention the name Radio 819 in their shows, they can't be blamed for anything illegal. In Rotterdam the building of Radio Europort was raided. Nico F. was interviewed as he is thought to be one of the key-figures in the Radio 819 organisation. A number of programme-tapes were confiscated; these tapes were already pre-recorded as part of Crown Music Media's syndicated cassette service. The reason for confiscating the tapes was they contained programmes which were also part of Radio 819's programming. No people were arrested in the Europort Radio building. It was however clear that within not too long a number of main suspects (4) were going to be arrested. A spokesman of Justice declared that the house of a former Radio Monique key-figure had been investigated because he was thought to be involved in Radio 819. Evangelist Johan Maasbach got a visit at his offices in The Hague just like the one behind World Mission Radio 6215. Once again: the authorities were willing to make an end on Radio 819's offshore activities. The Dutch authorities were co-operating with Belgium and England. Reason was the complaints which came from Hungaria, Sweden, France and England about interference on maritime distress frequencies. Do they mean Radio 819 was causing interference or do they point at WMR on SW 6215? They must be joking when they claim that there is interference caused by a tx which was operating with a power of less than 3 kW... This tx was hardly to be heard in large areas of The Netherlands because of the weakness of its signal. Back to Hans W.: he denied any involvement in the Crown Music Media business. Incidentally he was sending prizes, won by listeners of the syndicated CMM's programmes. Anyway, the police took a list with names and adressess of listeners with them. Mr. Dijkstra, member of the Management of Telecom and Post, was in charge of the whole investigation. Mr. Mijnsen, spokesman of Justice, said the Dutch government wouldn't take any action against the radioship Ross Revenge because they didn't want to make the same mistake as in 1980 (Radio Paradise/ Magda Maria).

The raids in Belgium were announced at a premature stage. Therefore a number of persons were able to make a clean sweep before the arrival of Belgian BOB officers. One supplier got a visit as well as people involved in the Nannell project (?). Or should we call it the Mi Amigo project? The latter raids indicates that the authorities were well-informed about the newest developments in the world of offshore. The owner of TexasTobacco Products was interviewed and the whole administration was confiscated. As you will know, Texas commercials were often played on Radio 819.

Thursday August 17th

The Dutch national newspaper 'Het Algemeen Dagblad' was the first with the news about the raids the previous day. Europort Radio mentioned in its newsreport that morning that they had nothing to do with Radio 819. Ronald Coene (alias Ron West on Radio Monique), chairman of the station, declared by means of an official statement that all was due to a misunderstanding and that Europort Radio is only purchasing a number of Crown Music Media cassettes which are broadcasted via their outlet. The same is done by several Belgian stations. By the way: Europort Radio is a fully legalised Dutch local radiostation. Ger Lammens (alias Gert van der Zee on Radio Monique) is interviewed on Radio

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Rijnmond and declares that he has nothing to do with any offshore station. Radio Rijnmond is a regional station for the Rotterdam area. Ger Lammens is working for Crown Music Media and his tape was aired on Saturdays on Radio 819 (09.00- 11.00). From England comes the news that raids in this country can also be expected. A spokesman of Crown Music Media reports that negotiations with the Ministry of Justice are underway to get the legal programme tapes back. Ria Valk and Krijn Torringa (both on Radio 819 during weekdays) are continuing to tape shows for the several local stations on FM in Belgium. 'Stads TV Rotterdam' pays attention to the raids in its newsreports that evening. An interview with Ger Lammens, pictures of Europoort Radio, photos of the Ross Revenge and two letters with accusations about Europoort Radio's connection with Radio 819, are shown. In one the letters it is mentioned that Colin Peters, working on Europoort R., was also working on the Ross Revenge at a time he already was on Europoort Radio. It is not known who was the sender of the letter. It could be the Local Broadcasting Corporation Rotterdam. A boat of the British coastguard is in the vicinity of the Ross Revenge. The deejay on duty reports that the crew of coastguard boat have asked to come aboard the Ross. However, this was refused by the crew on the Ross R. By the way: this was reported at 23.15 CEST.

Friday August 18th

Early in the morning Radio 819, WMR and Caroline 558 resume transmissions. A DTI vessel with officials of the Department of Trade and Industry and a representative of the Dutch authorities drops anchor in the vicinity of the Ross Revenge. The crew aboard the Ross was told that all staff on land had been arrested and were in prison. They wanted 819 & 6215 to go off the air. The crew was asked to leave the Ross Revenge, otherwise 'something' would be happening the next day at mid-day. On Radio 819 the taped show 'Coffee Time' was interrupted by Arie Swets, the only Dutch deejay aboard the Ross Revenge (there was also a Dutch cook on the Ross) who was continuously playing the record 'Ring, ring' by Abba till 12.00 CEST. Reason to believe he was trying to make the organisation on land clear that they had to contact him. Between 12.00 and 13.20 CEST 819 continued with its normal programming followed by silence between 13.20 and 13.30. Then suddenly Caroline 558 took over the programming on 819. It was Arie Swets who said goodbye to the 819 listeners at 13.38 CEST. His explanation was that there had developed a major technical defect in the studio of Radio 819. Therefore it was impossible to continue the Radio 819 programming. For the rest of that Friday Caroline was to be heard on 819. The first sign of problems via the 558 outlet were noted at 11.40 CEST when Chris Kennedy took over from programme controller Nigel Harris. 10 minutes later, at 11.50, three 'special' records were played on 558: 'Imagine', 'Lady in red' and a Loving Awareness track. These 3 records were played in a row and it was obvious something was wrong. The reason why Nigel Harris only presented his slot for a brief period and why Radio 819 had gone off air was revealed at the 14.00 CEST news bulletin. Dave Asher read the following: "And finally, the radioship Ross Revenge, anchored in the Int. waters of the Northsea, was approached at 09.15 AM (=10.15 CEST) this morning by a vessel from Britain, and the crew identified themselves as

officials of the DTI. Also on board was a representative of the Dutch radio authorities. They stated that international action was being taken to silence the broadcasts emanating from the Ross Revenge. Permission to board the radio ship for discussions on the future of the ship and its crew, was refused by the Captain. However talks took place and negotiations are continuing. We'll keep you informed as events occur. There's more news this afternoon at four o'clock."

Further news was read out at 17.00 and 19.00 CEST but no new developments took place. In the course of that Friday August 18th the SW transmitter was switched off. Caroline continued on 558 & 819. At 19.30 CEST Viewpoint 819 programmes were started. Later on that evening Caroline resumed broadcasts on 819 till 04.00 CEST. It was Colin Mueslibar who reported at approx. 23.00 CEST that the DTI ship got company from a Dutch ship called the 'Volans'. This ship belongs to the Dutch Department of Waterways and Public Works. Home base of the Volans is Scheveningen, a Dutch seaport closely connected to the Dutch offshore stations in the 60's and 70's. It was the Volans which was brought into action when the RNI ship Mebo II caught fire because of a bomb attack in May 1971. On board the Volans there were officials of the Dutch State Police and the RCD (responsible for tracking down illegal radio stations in The Netherlands). Peter Chicago who was on land that Friday, heard of the happenings and went to the Ross Revenge (single-handed!) on Friday night.

Saturday August 19th

Early in the morning, at 05.00 CEST, Radio 819 re-commences trms. Eddy the cook tells the listeners that the studio problems have been solved. The only Dutch newspaper paying attention to the raids three days earlier is 'De Zwolsche Courant' (a regional newspaper). The paper writes that the actions, carried out by the Dutch authorities, were (are) meant to finish off Radio 819's transmissions but also to put off a number of new offshore projects. The Dutch authorities had taken notice of rumours about 2 or even 3 new offshore projects, all in an advanced phase. In the newspaper report Mr. Mijnsen (spokesman of Justice) says: "We have reached a point that we must take action against these stations, especially because we have received complaints from Sweden, Hungary and England about interferences on maritime distress frequencies. The action is also carried out to discourage the others." Ofcourse he points at the Communicator and the Nannell (PV). Back to sea. At approx. 10.00 CEST another attempt is made to get the crew from the Ross off the radioship through a series of lies. It is quite obvious the authorities are trying to intimidate the crew on the Ross. Call it a war of nerves... Radio 819 continued with its normal programmes although at 11.00 a tape was played usually not to be heard on Saturdays. At 13.00 CEST started a repeat of the Texas American Top 40. Listening to Caroline 558 gave the impression things were normal. Only Caroline Martin played a few so-called 'meaningful' records late in the morning. After mid-day things became more serious. On board the Ross they already knew that there would be an attempt to board the ship. Listeners were asked to call the coastguard. At 13.40 CEST the Ross Revenge was boarded. In the mean time (after 13.00 CEST) the 558 signal was also to be heard via the 819 outlet. Several

Caroline deejays were in the studio, giving a live-report of what was going on. Several times the Caroline tune was played but also other 'special' records such as 'All you need is love' and a track from the Loving Awareness album. The final minutes were very dramatic. As the officials did not immediately switch off the two AM transmitters but were first talking with some of the crew, the deejays on duty could exactly tell the listeners what was going on. A few things said by the crew on board the Ross Revenge:

Bruce Monroe: "Representatives of the Dutch government have just boarded the Ross Revenge at the moment. One of the people that has come aboard has been violent towards our engineer. We haven't got a clue what's going on at the moment."

Chris Kennedy: "All we can say is these guys are definately not here to take photographs."

Bruce Monroe: "No, and at the moment we have the DTI standing by at the rear of the ship. They are not, at this stage, appearing to do anything, we're going to make enquiries whether or not they are going to allow this behaviour. As I say, there has been some violence, and it's the Dutch people that have been doing it. We'll get back to you."

After 14.00 CEST it became clear it was only a matter of minutes before the two transmitters would be switched off. Neil Gates, Caroline Martin, Dave Richards and Chris Kennedy were in the 558 studio. Already historic are Chris Kennedy's words "We love you too much to leave you forever." But these were not the final words Bruce Monroe who had spoken with a few officials explaining him what their intentions were, went to the studio where most of the other s were and explained the situation over the airwaves:

"Right, as it stands the gentlemen are going to remove the transmitters from the ship, and take a few other things as well. What they have just told us that we are free to go back to Holland with them, where there will be no more charges pressed. We will also be able to go back to England and there will be no charges pressed there. Alternatively we can stay on the Ross Revenge. Now would you like to say anything sir before we go off....."

And then there was silence on both 558 & 819.

Giving you more info about what happened during the raid on the ship: Peter Chicago was asked to show the ship's papers including the registration of the ship (under which colour the Ross Revenge was sailing). When Peter couldn't hand them the papers, an official climbed on board. Peter didn't allow him on the Ross and he kicked the official. A few moments later Peter was hit by an official. One of the crewmembers willing to help Peter Chicago was threatened by a State Police man who shouted: "I'll shoot your fuckin' head off." Apart from the Dutch officials (approx. 8 men) there were also 2 British DTI officials on the Ross Revenge: Jim Murphy and a certain Mr. Smith. These two threatened the Caroline crew with arrest if they did not answer the questions. All persons were interviewed by the DTI. Vital parts of the three transmitters were removed, for instance the PA valves and PA amplifiers. All studios were dismantled: record decks, tape- and cassette machines, mixing desks, jingle machines, tapes, jingle cartridges etc. And not to forget the whole record collection containing thousands and thousands albums and singles. Nothing is left from the impressive Caroline record collection. Also confiscated were several

Radio 819 programme

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tapes, Viewpoint 819 tapes and WMR tapes. The big generator was untouched as the officials thought it was the ship's generator. It seems that brandnew high tension measurement instruments haven't been confiscated because they were standing behind one the transmitters. These instruments was already on the ship for the installation of a new powerful (20 kW??) tx, already ordered in the USA by Continental Electronics. New insulators which were meant for the new aerial masts have been seriously damaged by the Dutch officials. The aerial wires were removed but more important to know is that the new aerial towers were untouched. So it won't be too difficult to hang up new wires. Several rumours say that there has been talk of taking the Ross Revenge to the harbour of Rotterdam. If this is true cannot be confirmed. Fact is that during the Saturday afternoon a ship with press people sailed to the Ross Revenge. At that moment the DTI summoned the Dutch to cease their action. 'Enough is enough'. A DTI spokesman declared that DTI officials were going aboard the radioship because there was violence and because the Dutch officials were too rude: they didn't keep their appointments, made with the DTI before boarding the Ross Revenge. At last the interviews were stopped. There was much interest if the side of the press and this could have had influence on the course of the events on the Ross Revenge. All persons questioned had to identify themselves; names, date of birth etc. were noted. It is unknown whether this will have any consequences for the future. Time will tell. At the time of the raid a reporter did have radiocontact with the Ross Revenge and talked with one of the Dutch RCD people. The reporter told the RCD man that the British had been claiming that the DTI would not play an active role in the raid. Answer from the RCD officer: "And what for the hell do you think they are doing on board the ship?" The fact a ship with press people appeared at the South Falls Head might have been of vital importance for the Ross Revenge as a ship. There were plans to tow her to a port but this plan was cancelled. Were the officers afraid of too much media interest? In no time the media were informed about the happenings on the Northsea. When the Landward, the DTI ship, arrived in the harbour of Ramsgate, it was searched by customs officers. The Caroline organisation had exerted pressure to find out whether the Landward was having any equipment on board coming from the Ross Revenge. It appeared nothing was to be found on the Landward leaving no other conclusion that the Dutch officers were fully responsible for all the happenings earlier that day. All confiscated equipment indeed was on the Volans: 30 cubic metres of equipment... (including the optimod- forgotten to mention earlier in this report!). It seems Caroline people have been making video recordings during the raid. The Dutch officers stayed for a rather long period on board the Ross Revenge. The Volans left with the two Dutch persons who were on the Ross at the time of the action: Arie Swets and Eddie the cook. The DTI ship left with two Caroline deejays: Tony Kirk and Bruce Monroe made this decision on personal grounds. During the Saturday evening there were special newstems on radio & television. The Dutch 8 PM TV news, watched by millions of people, spent a special item on the raid including old pictures and an 'off air' recording of what was to be heard on 558 & 819 earlier that afternoon. Chris Kennedy's words were heard by millions of people in The Netherlands. The Freewave editorial staff informed the

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Dutch and Belgian media with accurate information with regard to the raid. More than 15 local & regional stations well as well as a number of newspapers made use of the info which was provided by Freewave. Hans Knot, editor of Freewave, had a telephone interview with the head of the 'Opsporingsdienst Clandestiene Zenders', Mr. Dijkstra in the NOS programme 'Met het Oog op Morgen'. This programme is broadcasted every evening on two Dutch national FM networks. More than 5 minutes of this popular programme were spent on the raid.

Sunday August 20th

The Volans returns from its Northsea trip and enters Scheveningen harbour at 07.10 CEST. On board several officers, the two 819 persons and last but not least 30 cubic metres of equipment, confiscated on the Ross Revenge the day before. Interviewed was Arie Swets by the Dutch television (NOS). This interview wasn't shown on TV. A 2 min. TV report was brought on the NOS Sunday evening news. Looking at all the equipment, belonging to Caroline and Radio 819, you'll get a lump in your throat. In British Sunday papers only little reports about the Caroline raid. All in all British media have been giving very little coverage on the sad events on the Northsea. Strange.... Much more attention was paid to Caroline when the 25th anniversary was celebrated, earlier this year. Johnny Lewis, once one of Caroline's top deejays, declared he was frightened the same would happen when Caroline would return on the airwaves. Could be true but on the other hand: there are enough reasons to believe a second raid won't happen. It becomes clear that Caroline has been doing several attempts to get an answer from the DTI about the alleged complaints of interfering with other radio-services. The DTI didn't answer a single time... A shame!! A British reporter talked to Peter Chicago who declared that Caroline would surely return to the airwaves. "We don't give up. We are convinced that we have to return in a strong way. That's the only way to win a victory. We don't expect a second raid, but in case it will happen we know what is in store for us. Although we won't be violent, we shall offer resistance." Ronan O'Rahilly announced to take the kingdom of The Netherlands to the International Court in De Hague. The same will apply to the individuals involved in the raid. The Radio 819 organisation said that the raid took place a week too early since it was already decided to close down Radio 819 for good. It had become a too expensive hobby for the financiers of the project. In the mean time several explanations were given. According to Justice the action had been taken because of several complaints in the past 12 months. The complaints were relating to Radio 819 interfering with maritime frequencies. The same countries were mentioned as earlier to be read in this story. What has Hungary to do with maritime frequencies ??? Dutch teletext mentioned the fact the Ross Revenge would be towed into Dutch territorial waters and that the antenna towers would be pulled down. Nonsense. Only the antenna wires have been taken down, not the masts. The Ross is still at her anchorage in the South Falls Head. Ronan O'Rahilly reacts, as a result of the DTI's statement that they had nothing to do with the raid - there was only a DTI ship to observe everything - that this horrible action of the British government looked like 'the case of Nürnberg'. In other words: we don't know anything. Mr. Dijkstra said that the Ross Revenge wasn't registered in Panama allowing the authorities to climb aboard the ship.

If no Dutchmen would have been on the Ross, the Dutch action would have been illegal. Dijkstra thought (and perhaps still thinks) this would be the definit end for offshore radio. The arrival of two new offshore radio stations also had great influence on the authorities' decision to raid the Ross Revenge, Dijkstra said. "The action wasn't aimed at Caroline; Caroline is a case for the British authorities." The Radio Caroline press office issued the following statement today:

"Yesterday a joint action was taken by Dutch and British authorities against the Ross Revenge in the Int. waters of the North Sea. The radio ship was boarded by a force of 30 armed Dutch and British officials. Two crew members were beaten up during the boarding and crew members and radio staff including two young women deejays were man handled or threatened. In a statement the Canadian directors of Radio Caroline said that they were 'shocked and horrified at this act of piracy'. They said that having taken urgent legal advice they would be bringing charges of piracy assault and criminal damage against the authorities and against the individuals concerned. Shortly after the news of the violence on board the Ross Revenge the British DTI issued a statement claiming that no British officials were involved in the boarding and that UK officials were in another vessel keeping surveillance. Journalists who went to the scene yesterday spoke to a DTI official who identified himself as MR. Jim Murphy, whilst he was on board the Ross Revenge and was interrogating the crew. Photographs were also taken and are available. The Dutch raiders, all of whom carried fire arms, entered into a frenzy of destruction, smashing with sledge hammers anything in sight which they could not easily remove. They were also drinking heavily and left behind a large number of bottles which have now been removed from the ship. The Radio Caroline legal advisors are having these bottles tested for finger prints for use in the forthcoming legal action to be taken against both the Dutch and British authorities and against the individuals involved. It is expected that on Tuesday the first notices of action will be served. Both the Dutch and British authorities have denied any use of violence, which is contradicted by a report from a doctor who was immediately sent out to tend the injured crew. Photographic and video evidence exists of the wholesale damage created during the raid. Despite official British and Dutch statements to the contrary. A radio spokesman from Caroline 'It seems that this whole episode got out of control at an early stage and the raiding parties went berserk. We are particularly shocked at the fact that the armed officials were heavily drinking.' It seems that both the British and Dutch governments are now involved in a 'deniability exercise'. A journalist managed to contact the Ross Revenge whilst the raid was going on. When he asked a Dutch official about British denials of involvement, heavily reported in yesterday's newspaper coverage, the Dutch official said 'How can that be, they are here on the boat now?'. The journalist then asked to speak to one of the British crew of the radio ship. The Dutch official initially claimed no knowledge of the whereabouts of the crew until it was pointed out that he was on board the ship and must know. After some argument a crew member was allowed to the radio. He confirmed that raiders had caused extensive damage to the ship and radio equipment and had only stopped smashing the generators with sledge hammers when they were warned

they would be endangering the lives of the crew and other mariners if the ship was left without electrical supplies. One generator was thoroughly smashed however. The crew member also confirmed that violence had been used during the boarding and the radio link was then abruptly cut off (source: station-manager Peter M.).

Monday August 21st

Most Dutch newspapers pay a lot of attention to the raid. The majority publish a comprehensive report, compiled by the Dutch press office ANP. Also photographs showing the confiscated equipment are published. Only very few newspapers add own info to the general ANP story. 'Trouw' publishes a background story about Caroline's history, the same applies to another national paper called NRC. 'Het Algemeen Dagblad' brings the best and by far most up-to-date report. Summing-ups are to be heard on Radio Rijnmond, Radio West and Radio Noord, all regional radio stations. Also the future of Caroline and other projects (Nannell & Communicator) is discussed.

Tuesday August 22nd

'De Telegraaf' pays once again attention to the raid on the Ross Revenge. Afterwards it becomes clear the action was already planned some 18 months earlier... The money which was needed to finance the operation wasn't available as the responsible Dutch minister took the view that there were other priorities. Some three months ago the OCD was given permission to plan the action. There were plans to arrest Ronan O'Rahilly because he was the one hiring a transmitter to the Dutch Radio 819 organisation. The British authorities refused to arrest Mr. O'Rahilly. The Belgian and French authorities were approached to cut the supply routes off leading from harbours in these countries to the Ross Revenge. Thus heavy controls had to be started but this was too expensive. So also these plans had to be cancelled.

Wednesday August 23rd

The Caroline organisation hopes the back within a limited period. A low powered transmitter will be used and it seems Caroline is afraid to loose 558. So the point is to occupy 558 kHz as soon as possible (we've got plenty of competitors...). In the mean time a number of former Irish radio stations have offered to support Radio Caroline. Since most of the 'stations' still possess equipment from their active period which ended Dec. 31st 1988. Several persons have deposited donations. Caroline says the DTI will undertake no action as long as no Dutch station will broadcast from the Ross and provided Caroline will fly a flag... Three main suspects from the 819 organisation have written a letter which is sent to the authorities. In the letter they explain they are willing to co-operate as far as the investigation is concerned. They also know (and confess) they are guilty. Names: Nico Folkers, Gert Jan Smit and a female secretary Thea Penterman.

Thursday August 24th

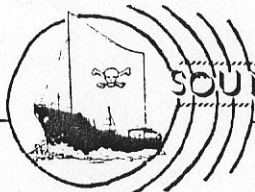
Radio Netherland's famous and popular DX-Show 'Media Network' pays attention to the sad happenings on the Northsea 5 days earlier.

Friday August 25th

The key figures behind Radio 819 disclose why they were running Radio 819, how shocked they are because of the enormous publicity and how idiot it is they are treated like criminals while they were nothing more than radio enthusiasts working on their hobby. They declare they have no secrets. All facts will be revealed. Another suspect, Mr. Ravelli from Texas Tobacco Products will co-operate with the authorities. He is in the U.S.A. but will be returning to The Netherlands very soon. Nico Folkers thinks people have made a mountain out of a molehill. He says there's no future anymore for Dutch commercial AM radio stations. AM radio still is very popular in the UK and the U.S.A.

EVALUATION

Still a lot of questions have remained unanswered. For instance: what was the main reason for the raid? All kinds of contradictory explanations have been heard. It could be true that the Dutch language service Radio 819 was the main reason for the raid. Remember the Dutch authorities had prepared the whole action, not the British. It seems quite logical the Dutch were mainly interested in closing down Radio 819. Another, perhaps less important reason, was World Mission Radio. Although the station has an official US address, the key figure behind this SW operation was to be found in The Netherlands and certainly not in the US...!! The talks about interferences from the Radio 819 tx can't be taken serious: with such a low power you can't interfere with other countries because such a relatively weak signal can't be received that far. WMR is a totally different story. 6215 wasn't the best choice since it is a so-called secondary distress channel. Isn't it striking that only very, very few short wave pirates have used 6215 since the early 1970's? Only ONE station has been using 6215 more or less regularly: the Free Radio Broadcasting Company, an UK based station being active in the second half of the 1970's. For the rest stations only have been using 6215 incidentally. Why? The answer must be clear. There were enough better, safer solutions within the 49/48 MB. It was a matter of another X-tal... Which reasons made this action 'legal'? Normally it's impossible to climb aboard ships in the Int. waters. But: it seems the Ross Revenge wasn't flying any flag. The ship wasn't registered since 1987. As a result she was not under the protection of a foreign country. And not to forget: there were Dutch citizens on the Ross. So for the Dutch authorities there were 2 important reasons making it possible to raid the Ross without getting too much problems. A third reason for the action must be the possible arrivals of two other radio projects. The action was also meant to scare the organisations behind the new projects. Let's hope these new projects are flying flags, that's one of the first things to be done before sailing to the Int. waters. It's crystal clear Caroline must re-register the Ross Revenge as soon as possible. The costs aren't too high: less than \$ 1000 a year. If Caroline was the only service aboard the Ross, there would have been no action. The latter seems to be a realistic thought. So it might be true Caroline isn't afraid more raids will follow the one taken on that black Saturday, August 19th 1989.



SOUNDS FROM OFFSHORE

As already mentioned earlier, we were informed about the raid by more than one person. For objectivity reasons, it's fair to inform you, the reader, with both stories. The first story was part of the day-by-day report. The second story has been compiled by Herbert Visser. Herbert used to work on the Ross as a Radio Monique deejay in part of 1986 and 1987. He still has very good contacts with some key-figures in the Caroline organisation. Currently he works on Radio 10 as a newsreader. When the sad events took place, Herbert was on duty and informed the Radio 10 listener's audience with updated hourly newsbulletins which were more detailed than the ones to be heard on the Dutch national radio-stations Radio 1, 2, 3 & 4. During the night after the raid (Saturday night) Herbert made contact with the Ross Revenge via Radio Scheveningen. Normally these contacts are not allowed but at the moment Herbert called to Scheveningen Radio, the Ross Revenge wasn't a broadcasting vessel anymore. That's the reason this was a legal contact! Herbert also spoke with one of the Dutch officials who were on board the Volans at the moment the raid took place. Finally: he met Arie Swets two days after the raid and talked with him about the incident on that red ship in the middle of the Northsea....

WHAT HAPPENED ON THE ROSS REVENGE....A TRUE STORY WRITTEN BY HERBIE

Friday-afternoon a Dutch coastguardboat came alongside the Ross, with on board 8 Dutch officials. This ship, called the Volans, was determined to put the stations on board the Ross off the air. Later on there were also boats from the DTI (or 1 DTI ship) involved in this closing-down action for Caroline 558. Anyway, there were 2 British DTI officers out there who were joining the Dutch ones. As Arie Swets was the only Dutch broadcastmember on board (there was a Dutch cook, but he didn't even know what was going on at the time) he, on Fridayafternoon, negotiated with the Dutch officials about closing the stations down. They were apparently told that they got a week to think about closing the transmitters down, or otherwise they would tow the ship into a Dutch harbour! This, of course, as a way of intimidation because everyone knows that such an action would be fully illegal. Any country is allowed to enter a stateless ship anywhere, but it's illegal to tow such a boat into a harbour to impound it, unless it's a drugship. The official reason, by the way, for the action is the interference World Mission Radio caused on 6215 kHz, an international stand-by emergency channel. Complaints about this have been made by Finland, Sweden, Hungaria and Czechoslovakia. and because the officials were already there they also took off the rest of the equipment. While Arie Swets spoke with the Dutch officials on the Volans Caroline 558 took over the programming on 819. The English jocks regularly broadcasted code-emergency calls and played code-records. This is also the reason that Peter Chicago came out in the night from Friday onto Saturday. Until then the station had just jocks on board the Ross. Saturdaymorning till 10 O'clock the programmes continued just as normal as always. But around that time 819 closed down with "Ring ring" from Abba, which means "please contact us immediately and send a tender". After the close down of Radio 819 Caroline took once again over and was on on both frequencies. In the early afternoon the Dutch and British officials made clear that they were going to enter the ship if Peter Chicago, who identified himself as the captain, couldn't hand over the

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official ships papers, in which things like the owner and the flag registration are written down. As these papers weren't on board (were they ever, by the way) Peter couldn't hand them over. So at about noon the first attempt was made to put the Dutch officials on board the Ross Revenge. Peter Chicago became really furious about this and he officially prohibited anyone from the Volans to come on board, but the Dutch officials answered that they had the full right to do this as the boat was stateless. So they made a second attempt and this time Peter Chicago began pushing them back. One officer threatened to fall between the two ships as a result of the pushing from Chicago, and as you know, this could easily kill somebody. But Chicago kept on pushing this officer back, although he was right between the Ross and the Volans at that time. According to Arie Swets, who was alongside Peter to help him, this was a very dangerous situation for that particular officer. At a certain stage another Dutch one saw a chance to jump over and did that. The first thing he did was running up to Peter to kick him on his head. After this first 'official action' the Dutch officer who was in between the boats could easily climb on the Ross Revenge, and also the other ones climbed on board. At around a quarter past noon all the Dutch officials were in the Messroom to discuss with the crew from the Ross what they were going to do. Peter, however, didn't want to speak with them in the first stage because he was still angry with them for the kick on his head he got from that officer. In the meantime Caroline remained on the air with a full report from minute to minute about what was going on.

The crew had these discussions with the Dutch officials in the messroom and all the time a few Carolinejocks were running between the messroom and the studio to tell on the air what they were told in the messroom. And they were told things like that the ship wouldn't be towed in itself and that no one on board the ship would be prosecuted if they went back with them to either the UK or Holland. Alternatively they could stay on board the ship if they would like to, and wouldn't be prosecuted to!!!

If you look at the law they can't ever prosecute the people on board because they are in International Waters at the time. Once again, unless it's a drugship, they can't arrest people on board a ship in International Waters. A stateless ship may be entered by any country at any time, but they can't tow it and arrest the people on board as long as this boat is in International Waters. The Dutch officials (8 men) and the 2 British ones soon made clear to Peter Chicago that they were going to rip the transmitter equipment off. Because he then saw that he couldn't stop them from doing that he decided to passively co-operate with them, so that less as possible on the boat would be damaged. Arie told me that immediately after the first appearance on board by a Dutch official (and immediately after Peter got the kick on his head) Chicago was astonished to the ground, just stood there on deck with a complete red head and unable to bring out a word for at least a quarter of an hour. As this was something he ever couldn't dream of this was going to happen.

Afterwards the raid took place in what could be called a friendly atmosphere. They've ripped off the transmitter-gear. All the bits and pieces which they could get out of the transmitters, they got out of that. From what remained on board it's impossible to build a new transmitter with. But they didn't damage

anything they didn't take off, says Arie Swets. Also, of course, they got away with the optimod and processors and other measure instruments. After they did the transmitter part, some of them climbed in the masts on board the Ross and got the aerial wires down. The masts themselves remained standing up, so luckily they didn't let the masts fall. And finally they took away ALL and really ALL of the studio-equipment on board, including all the jingles, tapes and...records. The whole record collection which used to be on board now lies in Scheveningen harbour. Currently, the boat is still at its anchorplace with the aerials still standing up and the generators still working, but without transmitters, records, antennawires and isolators and studios on board.

The Dutch authorities also recorded a complete video of their action and after all the stuff was on board the Volans, the Ross Revenge crew and the Dutch officials sat together in the messroom on the Ross watching this video. They left at about 10 o'clock in the evening leaving the Ross Revenge behind without anything to transmit.... At that time Dave Asher came out on a boat with some press on it, who also heard about the action which had been taking place. The 2 Dutch crewmembers on the Ross, Arie and that cook, decided to go off with the Volans, which arrived at about 7 o'clock Sunday morning in Scheveningen. All the others, 8 British crewmembers including Peter Chicago, Nigel Harris and two women (Caroline Martin was also on board) decided to stay on the ship and it is believed that they're still there. Malcolm, by the way, says that the ship WAS registered (or IS) in Havana in Cuba. I don't believe this actually, but if it's true he better had come forward a little bit earlier with this.

(Note: this report was compiled a few days after the raid. So it's quite logical some info isn't up-to-date anymore. Main point was the report about the actual raid because a number of facts were mentioned which were not be read in the first report about the raid. In this way we've published two different reports from two different people.)

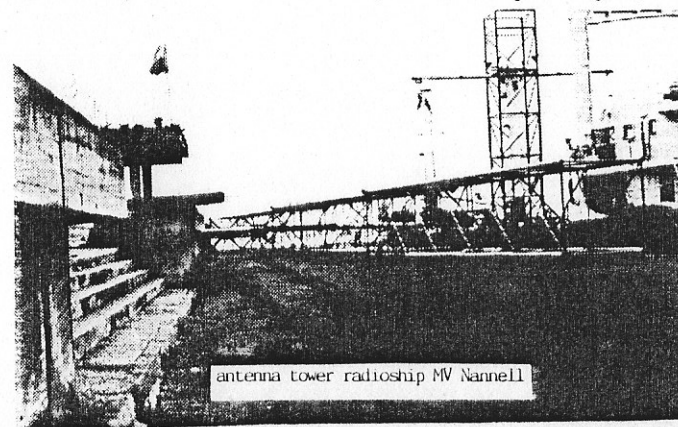
CAROLINE 558 RETURNS!!!

After the 19th of August raid some people were optimistic while others were pessimistic. Taking into account the developments in the past 18 months or so, it was justified to think Caroline would not return until the end of this year or even early 1990. Remember how long it took to erect two new aerial masts (which were still not finished when the raid took place) and one must admit it could take a long, long time. But....wonders will never cease...! It was Wednesday September 27th when a blank carrier was to be heard on 558. Turning the receiver into a certain direction indicated this signal was coming from the Northsea. Saturday September 30th more tests were heard (perhaps also the previous days) and music was heard that same evening. A couple of announcements were heard and listeners were informed Caroline would officially return Sun October 1st at 06.00 BST/CET. It's impressing knowing the station could be back within 6 weeks after the raid. It's even more impressing when you take into account no studio-equipment, no records and no txs in working order were on the Ross! Sun Sept. 17th a 'Practical Display of Support' was being or-

ganised by the Caroline Movement. A lot of Caroline fans came to London and several hundreds of record albums were collected and are now on the Ross Revenge. It was important for Caroline to occupy the 558 frequency. Peter Chicago converted the SW unit (5 kW) back into a MW tx (which it was originally) As far as we know the SW tx wasn't damaged that much during the August raid. Two sources claimed that the output would become 10kW. In the weeks Caroline was off air the new antenna system was finished. So one would assume, bearing in mind that the new system must be better than the old one and that the power would increase from approx. 3 to 10 kW, that a much improved signal could be expected. The latter can't be said unfortunately. Signal-strength is certainly not better. And the modulation level has dropped because no optimod can be used. So all in all the current Caroline sound is less good in compare with August. Perhaps (and hopefully) things will improve very soon! Only a small crew was on board the Ross when programming was recommenced including Peter Chicago, Caroline Martin and Dave Asher. Even Peter Chicago was heard presenting programmes on 558 (between 3-6 PM). In the meantime a few 'new' jocks have joined the others: Nick Richards, Dave Richards. Plan is to air the Viewpoint pxs after the Carilne pxs, that means after 6 PM (for continental listeners after 7 PM: wintertime will be soon introduced in the UK). However, there's one problem: Radio Finland can now be heard with a much stronger signal on 558 kHz. This could badly affect the Viewpoint signal, especially in the upcoming winterperiod. Caroline must increase power, otherwise it has no use to put the Viewpoint pxs on the air.

A rumour or not: already before the raid Caroline had ordered a new (or second hand) medium wave tx in the USA. This tx is at least 20 kW. Future will tell whether this is true. One last thing which may not be forgotten: is Caroline officially registered or: is the Ross Revenge flying a flag at this very moment???

Special thanks to Hans Knot and Herbert Visser. Without their help it had been impossible to compile the comprehensive offshore news report. Caroline fans attention please! Hans Knot, editor of many offshore radio books, has written a fantastic Caroline book. More than 200 pages, in English. It costs £ 10.00 by sending it cash or via an eurocheque to: P.O.Box 102, 9700 AC Groningen, The Netherl.



antenna tower radioship MV Nannell

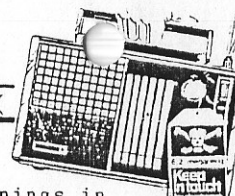
M.V. COMMUNICATOR

Ofcourse it was the MV Ross Revenge/Radio Caroline/Radio 819 attracting most attention in the past 8 weeks or so. In the mean time a lot of work has been carried out on the MV Communicator. Last issue we reported about the fact the ship had left its moorings heading for Portugal. As far as we know this happened already in July although one or two sources claimed the Communicator sailed to Portugal in August. We believe it was July. Anyway, the ship sailed to a port in Portugal's capital Lissabon. Major work had to be carried out on the ship to make it more seaworthy. And: the two aerial masts had to be erected as well as the installation of technical equipment. The studios weren't ready and it is believed one or two new transmitters would be installed to complete the broadcasting equipment. There's talk of a 30 kW FM transmitter and a powerful short wave unit. The backers and initiators behind the Communicator project are determined to continue and aren't afraid because of the raid on the Ross Revenge. Interesting to know is that a Swiss consortium is involved in this promising new project. This consortium may have something to do with the religious programmes which should be aired via the new powerful short wave outlet.

M.V. NANNELL

The Nannell remains a complete mystery!! First the info that the ship left Santander (early June). Then we heard about problems with the antenna tower at the moment the ship was in open seas. The vessel returned to the port of Santander. Repairs were carried out and then..... Here starts the mystery. The ship again left its berth and lost the (complete?) aerial mast somewhere off the French coast (must be a weak/unprofessional construction). The ship dropped anchor off Blankenberge, a Belgian seaside resort. According to at least one insider the ship should be anchored some 25 miles off the Belgian coast. Could that be the reason we haven't got any reports from people having seen the ship ?? We heard from one of our reporters that he had received photos showing the Nannell and the new constructed aerial lying on the quay while a part of the tower was already on the ship. To prove this person wasn't joking, we've decided to publish this photo. Important to know is the fact that, according to the aforementioned person, this photo shows another aerial than the first original (and collapsed) mast. Conclusion: the photo is taken after the first mast collapsed. The Nannell sailed to a harbour (which one is a complete mystery) and work started to rect/construct a new mast. Right or wrong?? Perhaps one of our readers can help. Stuart in the UK took quite a number of photographs and must know whether the aerial in this issue is different from the one on his photos. Let us know Stuart!! The plan was to relay Cable One, the Dutch satellite radiostation, on medium wave 1404 kHz with a power of 10 kW. In the Dutch radiomagazine Freewave it was reported that (and this is quoted) 'the captain of the Nannell had via the VHF band contact with people ashore' suggesting the ship is (was?) indeed lying in the International Waters of the Northsea. The latest reports about the Nannell aren't very optimistic. More about that in the next issue!

Also in the next edition some information about rumours with regard to a new US offshore venture called POWER 531.



S.W. survey

In this month's short wave column we cover the most important 'good old' short wave free radio land happenings in the past 2 months. Speaking in general conditions haven't been to bad. Most of the time conditions were stable with good reception possibilities. In the course of the years a few trends have been developing within the short wave field. Remember the use of the lower frequencies in the 57 mb some two years ago. It never became a HABIT. Nowadays another new development has been setting in: evening broadcasts within (mainly) the 48mb range. Favourites are the Friday and Saturday evenings. It is really striking to notice how clear reception has been of a number of stations during the (late) evening. It seems obvious conditions are favourable in the evening. There's not much fading and bandnoise resulting in crystal clear reception. A few stations being heard are Radio Rainbow Germany, Weekend Music Radio, Passion Radio, Voice of the Netherlands, Radio confusion etc. Interesting for those who hate to watch TV. Give it a try on your world or communications receiver!

An important thing I want to point out is the help we need to compile this SW column. We are looking for a couple of persons willing to send us on a regular basis (every 2 or 3 weeks) short wave loggings plus interesting bits and pieces they hear in the programmes of the SW hobby pirates. And there's also a task for SW OP's: if you have any news about your station, PLEASE take the trouble and send it to our mailing address. Perhaps it's a matter of 10 or 15 minutes.... Is that asked too much ??? Somebody who has HEART for his hobby must be prepared to help and inform others about his station. In this way he reaches an extra number of listeners who perhaps haven't heard the station on air. We want to fill this column with NEWS and not only with loggings.

And now the news which isn't as up-to-date as usual....

* BRITAIN RADIO INTERNATIONAL currently is one of Britain's BEST and most up-to-date stations. A few exciting things happened in July when BRI was intending to put out its fixed second Sunday Solid Gold format (July 9th). A man was in the neighbourhood of the tx location. The BRI 'roadies' didn't want to take the risk of taking the broadcast equipment out of the car, so they waited and as a result the 2nd Sun format was heard a week later, Sun July 16th. A very brief 1 hour broadcast was put on the air on the 23rd instead of a full schedule which normally is aired every 4th Sun. Sun July 30th BRI was heard on 6314 which is a rather unusual frequency knowing their fixed frequency is 6230 kHz. On Sunday August 13th BRI presented as part of its Solid Gold Sunday a special MOA programme. Interesting! Sunday August 20th, a day after the raid on the Ross, BRI was on the air with an unscheduled extra Roger Davis programme informing the listeners about the sad events the day before. The transmission included the final 15 minutes of Radio Caroline 558. Well done BRI. A week later during the regular 4th Sunday trm a lot of attention was paid to the raid. September 10th and 24th BRI was heard with its usual format. Signal wise it can be pointed out that signal quality on the continent is more than satisfactory. A fairly strong signal (bearing in mind the relatively low tx power) and a high levelled modulation. And once again: the BRI pxs are more than worth while listening to.

Friday evening August 4th BRI introduced the 'BRI Night Time Service'. Whether this will be repeated in the near future is unknown. An extra Bank Holiday transmission took place Monday August 28th (on 6230 like all mentioned trms). Addresses: (4) & 32 Victoria Rd, Salisbury, Wiltshire in the UK.

* RADIO ATLANTIS SW made an unexpected trm on Sun August 6th on a frequency of 6201 kHz. A power of 100W was claimed and at least on the continent a strong signal was to be heard. By the way: looking in our logbook we discovered it was Atlantis' second 1989 transmission following an earlier one in January. For about 30 minutes a telephone number was given out. Two addresses were mentioned in the pxs: (2) & P.O.Box 37, Ashton under Lyme, Manchester in the UK. Atlantis will possibly be back in December with a special X-Mas broadcast.

* RADIO CONFUSION was heard Sunday Sat August 26th on 6310 as well as Sun September 3rd on 6307. Back in May Confusion carried out a night time broadcast which resulted in approx. 7 letters. Interesting to note was another late night broadcast on Sat Sept. 2nd on 6290 kHz. Signal-strength on the continent was poor/fair but in the UK a strong signal was noted. As an utility station went on top of Confusion, a frequency change to 6308 kHz was made. Radio Confusion uses a 15W tx fed into an inverted V aerial. Address: 32 Victoria Rd, Salisbury, Wiltshire in the UK.

* We mentioned BRI as one of the most regular English stations. One musn't forget there's another regular one and that is of course RADIO EAST COAST COMMERCIAL. ECC has a special place when looking at the British SW stations. It's a station always putting out a good sound (programme wise but also technically). Most of the time crystal clear signals are received on 6815 kHz. During the last Sun of August ECC wasn't heard, an exception when looking at the station's regularity! Earlier (July) problems with the txs (RF getting back into the equipment) have been solved. As from August 6th onwards it was announced that the additional 26 MB tx was in operation again on 11515 kHz. Sun August 13th a special MOA special was broadcasted. Some exclusive Laser tapes were heard as well. Although during the month of August 11515 was continuously mentioned no one seemed to receive it. Late September however ECC was heard with an exceptional strong signal on 11515 kHz in The Netherlands (eastern part). So 11515 is no fake, only: reception largely depends on the conditions! Keep an eye on the first Sunday of every month when the popular DX-Show is featured. Address: (3).

* A station which is underestimated is RADIO 48. It's a solid station with a perfect signal and well-presented programmes. Sun July 30th Radio 48 was to be heard on 6280 (more or less the station's fixed frequency) with an excellent signal-quality! It seems the station has been introducing a new slogan 'Quality Rock for Europe'. One of the station's presenters is 'good old' Mark Stafford who presented a 2 hour show with great music and interesting news items from the world of wireless. Interesting were the Radio London extracts and the item about the raid on Radio Laser short wave. The station has an info-bulletin, so why not drop the station a line. Radio 48 deserves it!

Address: see Radio s.w. news Confusion!

One last remark about Radio 48: as many of the British stations (see earlier issues of 'FRS Goes DX'!!) Radio 48 suffered from a lack of response from British SW enthusiasts. 10 letters was the result for the July 30th broadcast. Not real good with remember the broadcast was carried out in the middle of the holiday period, so all in all not bad. The May broadcast resulted in only 2 letters. A shame !! Radio 48 aims at a bi-monthly format.

* It seems there are plans to start a kind of super-station in the (near) future. The station will feature a number of well known SW broadcasters. Key-figure in this promising project is Andy Walker of WFRL fame who invited Roger Davis, Peter Moss and a guy called Verbruggen to join him on the new station. Possibly a few others will join as well. Special jingles for this new station will be recorded (are perhaps already recorded ?!). At this stage it can't be said when the station makes its debut. Perhaps November or December or early 1990. No address is known.

* We read about rumours that RADIO RASTAFARI might return to the airwaves. It was a well-known station blasting out reggae music in the late 70's/early 80's. Rastafari made use of the relay-facilities of Radio delmare as well as via its own outlet. It is a Dutch station and according to RT the address still is P.O.Box 162, 6680 AD Bommel in The Netherlands. Where have all the good times gone.....I don't know BROTHER!

* A new West-German station is HOUSE MUSIC RADIO. The debut broadcast took place on Sat night August 12th on 6314 via the facilities of Radio Rainbow Germany. Signal-strength in Western Europe was fair/good. Relays via Radio Waves are also planned. September 2nd (Sat night) and Sept. 3rd House Music Radio was again heard via Rainbow's tx on 6314 with a fair/good signal. Addresses are P.O.Box 202, D-6440 Bebra in W-Germany and P.O.Box 1243, 6685 Schiffweiler, W-Germany. The latter address is also used by SWR.

* In September we got a letter from the station OP of RADIO INDIGO informing us that the station will return (after a long absence) in October on 7310 kHz via a relay. The station possesses an own tx and this one will be operational during the November/December period. Power will be 30W (approx.). Address: (4).

* One of the most active nighttime broadcasters is RADIO RAINBOW GERMANY. The station prefers to broadcast around or on 6314 and most of the time a fair/good signal is to be heard. Here's a list of dates when the station was noted on short wave:

- Friday August 18th 6314 (fair signal)
- Sat August 26th 6314 (fair/good)
- Sat Sept 2nd 6314 (fair)
- Sun Sept 3rd 6314 (fair/good).
- Sat Sept 9th 6314 (fair/good).
- Sat August 12th 6314 (good).

Sunday September 3rd RRG celebrated its 4th Birthday. Congratulations! September 9th the station tested to the USA. In the mean time the station has new promo material available including info-sheets, stickers and pennants. A new set of qsl-cards will be introduced in the near future. Not bad at all.

Sat September 23rd was Black Saturday for RRG. One of the txs was stolen during a mobile broadcast on 7366. This trm was carried out on Sat night at 22.00 UTC. The next day the tx was lost! Very annoying! Apart from the tx, an auto reverse tape deck was stolen plus the aerial. It seems RRG now has two addressess: P.O.Box 65027, 3002 DA Rooterdam and the new one which is P.O.Box 6105, D-5190 Stolberg in W-Germany.

* A station which seems to be a mystery in the world of short wave is RADIO MIRAGE. Although the station announces a Norwegian address we feel (and we are not the only ones...) that the station's signal is emanating from somewhere in Western Europe. Could be England for instance. At the end of July /early August Mirage was very active and could be received on various frequencies. July 23rd the station was broadcasting on 6280, 7290 and 11485 kHz. Two weeks later, August 6th, Mirage was on 6280 and 7285. Signals were not particularly impressing. Sat August 12th 6235 was being used. This was a nighttime trm with a loop tape providing fair reception in the UK. After this nightly test the spirit wasn't gone as on Sunday August 13th a handful of X-tals was being used to put the tx on various frequencies on the air: 6280, 7285, 7310 & 7361 kHz. Sun August 27th 7291 was being used with fair/good signal-strength. The address to write to is: P.O.Box 2778, Elverhoy, 9001 Tromso in Norway.

* From Norway southwards to 'somewhere in the East of The Netherlands' were RADIO EAST COAST HOLLAND's transmissions are coming from. In the past few months the station hasn't been as active as earlier this year although still a few broadcasts were put on the air. After using 7360 the station OP decided this was not the most ideal choice and thus he switched to the 7280/7290 area in the 41 mb. As far as we know he still is discontent, so perhaps RECH returns to the 48 mb or another suitable channel in the 41 mb has to be found. July 22nd a 7290 test was carried out resulting in very good reception. A brief trm was heard on 6240 (so a return to the 48 mb) with an excellent signal on the continent. RECH may recommence more or less regular trms within a few weeks. Address: P.O.Box 536, 7900 AM Hoogeveen in The Netherlands.

* The VOICE OF THE NETHERLANDS has been rather active in the past months. July 23rd a test was carried out on 7490 kHz (very strong signal). July 30th a joined trm with Radio Charlene took place on 7490 kHz. August 19th a nighttransmission was to be heard on 6236 (earlier that evening 6312 was used as well). A perfect signal was heard in Scandinavia apart from the usual solid reception on the continent. The OP rebuilt the tx and power was (has been) increased to no less than 400W! This power combined with an high-levelled modulation makes the signal of the VOTN one of the best currently to be heard on the SW bands (as far as free radio stations are concerned...). Finally we mention Sunday October 1st when VOTN was active on the almost familiar 7490 frequency. The address is P.O.Box 669, 7900 AR Hoogeveen.

* Although a come-back was expected to take place in one of the Summer months, RADIO APOLLO hasn't returned on SW so far. It seems Dave Scott is the only one who's left following the departure of two Apollo deejays a while ago. Address: (3)

* One of Germany's more popular stations is the PIRATE FREAKS BROADCASTING SERVICE. After a long absence the station has returned on SW. Friday evening August 4th a test was carried out on 6235 kHz (fair). Exactly 7 days later another test was carried out with a strong signal heard in the UK as well as on the continent. August 18th another test was heard on 6235 with again good signal-strength. August 19th brought, just like the aforementioned dates, a nighttime test on 6235 kHz. The story continues in September with more nighttime transmissions Sept. 1st (6235) and Sept. 2nd (6233). During the latter live-transmission with a 50W tx the name Passion Radio was used although it was quite obvious the trm was coming from PFBS. By the way: signal-quality was superb that evening. Passion Radio was also heard Sept. 23rd on 6230 & 6280 kHz. During this transmission people were invited to call the station. As a result 13 people took the opportunity to call the station. During the trm some technical problems occurred and the 50W tx had to be replaced by a 15W outlet. PFBS has changed its address (was Dedemsvaart) and can now be contacted via (4). The same address applies to Passion Radio.

* WEEKEND MUSIC RADIO from Scotland was heard on many different occasions and at the same time on a handful of frequencies:

- July 15/16th (overnight) 6317 kHz (test)/ 6295 kHz
- July 22/23rd (overnight) 15044 kHz
- August 5th (evening) 6310 kHz
- August 11th (overnight) 6310 kHz
- August 12th (overnight) 6310 kHz (strong on continent)
- August 19th (overnight) 6235 kHz/ 6298 kHz (6235 strong!)
- August 20th 6210 kHz (strong in UK/weak on cont.)
- August 20th 6235 kHz (strong in UK)
- August 27th 6240/ 6313 kHz.
- September 3rd 6310 kHz
- September 8th (overnight) 6310 kHz (strong on continent)
- September 9th (overnight) 6235kHz//6309 kHz
- September 10th 6310 kHz (weak on continent).

All in all an impressive loglist! Fact is that reception of WMR during evening and overnight is superior to daytime reception on the continent. The Sat night trm on the 19th of August had to do with the Caroline raid earlier that day. Also the next day a lot of attention was paid to the sensational and sad happenings that weekend. A phone interview with Paul Graham was aired. It seems that several times WMR has been broadcasting on 10043 kHz as well (not mentioned on the list above) with the emphasis on the night hours. Especially in the UK reception on 15043 is very difficult due to the propagation pattern. Main reason for broadcasting in the 19 mb is to reach the other side of the Atlantic. WMR was the first station informing US listeners about Caroline's raid. Apart from the USA, the station also received reports from as far away as New Zealand and Australia. A very interesting and lengthy info-sheet is available via 42 Arran Close, Cambridge, the UK.

* 4IFR, currently New Zealand's only SW free radio station, can also be heard via Jolly Roger Radio in Ireland. JRR is most of the time active on 6229 kHz. The address of 4IFR reads as follows: BP 130, 92504 Rueil Cedex, France and P.O.Box 1280, Rednall, Birmingham B45 8SG in England. Also RWI relays 4IFR on a more or less regular basis.

* RADIO JOYSTICK from W-Germany returned on SW Sunday August 27th via the facilities of Radio Wawes in France and Radio Europe in Italy. The latter broadcasts on 7294 kHz and seems to be a bit of a strange choice because the 7294 signal is hardly to be received in W-Europe. The trm via Radio Europe lasted for 2 hours between 0- 11 UTC. Sun Sept. 24th Joystick was relayed via Radio Orion on 6299 (strong in the UK/ good on the cont.) as well as via Waves on 7441 (poor/fair). It seems a number of stations prefer TWO addresses rather than one. Radio Joystick is no exception: (2) and P.O.Box 100812, D-4330 Mülheim/Ruhr 1, W-G.

* Talking about come-backs: KBC RADIO from The Netherlands popped up on 7312 kHz August 27th. Tom de Wit used to present 'WMR Goes DX' but due to the raid on the Ross Revenge he became idle. Once a pirate always a pirate were Tom's thoughts and thus he dived in to his cellar (or was it the attic) and found a tx. 'This is a nice transmitter' Tom shouted and basically that's the story of KBC's return on SW. Power was 50W fed into an Inverted V aerial. Signal-strength was very good in W-Europe: some 50 reports were received for the early morning test that day. Tom did it all over Sept. 24th on 7312 with again excellent signal-strength. 'The Mighty KBC' can be contacted via P.O.Box 725 in Arnhem, The Neth.

* RADIO GEMINI, still active on SW, was logged July 23rd with an early morning broadcast between 05.00- 06.00. Later on that day Gemini was also to be heard at a more suitable time slot (after 10.00 GMT). Frequency for both trms was 6239 kHz; reception on the continent was poor.

* WONDERFUL FREE RADIO LONDON made a number of scheduled trms over the past 2 months. Apart from the 1st and 2nd Sunday trms a few unscheduled trms took place. Sat July 22nd a test was carried out on 6275 kHz. A second extra trm was put on the air Sun August 20 as a result of Caroline's raid on the 19th. Although a lot of effort was put into this px, the actual reception quality left much to be desired. Sad but true. Sun August 6th two other stations were very close to WFRL: TNR FM/NISWRS plus Radio Southsea Int. It's clear reception of WFRL was badly affected because of the 2 other stations. Everyone must know that WFRL is already for quite a while on 6275 every 1st & 2nd Sun. So station OP's have to take into account not occupying a frequency which is too close to 6275. It's more or less an unwritten law that once you know a station uses regularly a fixed frequency, you keep your 'fingers' from that frequency and also from frequencies very close to that freq. August 13th a 'MOA Special' was broadcasted, very interesting! The two trms in September (3rd & 10th) were heard in poor quality on the continent. A pity because the WFRL programming is more than worth while to listen to. October 8th a much better signal was received on the continent. The WFRL 'World Service' still isn't re-activated. Perhaps in the near future?? Address: (3).

* RADIO TITANIC INT. from W-Germany celebrated its 14th (!!) anniversary Sun August 20th on 6240. It might have been an UK relay as the signal in the UK was stronger in compare with the continent. A week before, Titanic was also heard on 6240 kHz. After some problems with the Dedemsvaart maildrop, some 10 letters were received for the January and Junetransmissions.

For the rest of 1990 RTI can be contacted via (1). As from 1990 onwards a new address will be introduced: (4).

* Do you remember the raid on RADIO BATIDA earlier this year? Station-OP Mike F. had to pay DM 150,- which isn't too much in compare with fines in The Netherlands!

* After more than 6 months of silece, SUD WEST RADIO from W-Germany made a come-back. This happened Sun August 20th on 6235 kHz. A new 40W mobile tx was being used and this rig provided 'us' with good reception. SWR's px was followed by the German Free Radio Corporation. The latter always broadcasts on the occasion of the annual DX-Camp in Merchweiler, W-Germany. The GFRC was also heard Sat evening Sept. 2nd on 6314 via Rainbow Radio Germany. The address to write to is (for both SWR & GFRC): P.O.Box 1243, Schiffweiler in W-Germany. It's unknown whether SWR will return on a regular basis. SWR was (is?) one of the most beloved free radio SW stations among W-German listeners. The station has always produced very impressive signals on 6235 kHz.

* RADIO FREEDOM from Scotland tested on 6205 kHz Sept. 3rd as well as on a few other occasions. Signal-strength on the continent was poor although reception was clear. Address: Dept. R., 67 Elm Row, Edinburgh, EH7 4AQ in England.

* RADIO WAHNSINN was to be heard on the rather unusual 7410 spot Sun Sept. 3rd. A very good signal was noticed coming from possibly a strong Dutch relay. 7410 is often occupied by the so called 'Spy number stations' and that's the reason it's not very often used by European hobby pirates. Address: (2).

* Another W-German station which can be heard so now and then is RADIO UNIVERSUM. This station was heard on 7430 with a good signal Sun Sept. 3rd. Pxs in German and English were put on the air and it must be said the Universum pxs aren't bad at all! The address is (2).

* News from two other W-German projects: RADIO MANDARINE will possibly have its debut trm around X.Mas this year. The station will be relayed via RWI and/or Jolly Roger Radio. Address: (4). STAR CLUB RADIO is hoping to have relays via Radio California and will have its own tx ready next Summer. Address: (2).

* RADIO CALDONIA from The Netherlands has planned a nighttime trm in October (on 48 metres). As the station staff have lost interest in SW this could be the final trm, at least for the time being. But what is missed from a station which hasn't been heard for ages?? Address: P.O.Box 65027, 3002 DA Rotterdam in The Neth

* Some news from Italy: the ITALIAN RADIO RELAY SERVICE has altered its frequency and can now be heard on 9865 kHz. The station transmits with 10 kW each and every Sunday. RADIO EUROPE has plans to increase power to 500W. Currently the station uses a 40W tx. That's the reason reception on 7294 is often very difficult. Radio Europe also broadcasts on 27827 kHz.

"LET'S DO IT!!!!". With this shout Charlie Wolfe "opened" Atlantic 252 on Friday September 1st 1989. A good reason for us to look at the latest developments regarding this station. Already in our May-issue an extensive article about A 252 was published. Now we will focus on the happenings during the unforgettable Summer of 1989.

After the last work was carried out to the antenna tower and the antenna tuning unit test-transmissions could start on Tuesday August 1st. From that day on regular test-tones could be heard. A 600 kHz tone was produced on 254 kHz. (From January 1990 onwards A252 will be transmitting on the announced frequency of 252 kHz). The power used for these first tests was only 50 KW. Nevertheless reception on the continent (Holland) was quite satisfactory. Purpose is to increase power to 600 KW by linking the two 300 KW transmitters (Continental Electronics) together. A 252 will also have a very clear signal by using a ORBAN Optimod AM system.

During the first two weeks of testing power became 100 KW. We believe power at this moment is still on this level. Due to the increased power the station has been received in countries like West-Germany, France and Sweden.

Monday August 14th saw the first musical tests. A selection of some 10 records was played regularly, accompanied with some (taped) messages. One of the voices heard belonged to John Catlett former Laser 558 manager, now A 252 program-director. Another familiar voice was heard some days later: Charlie Wolfe. Rumours which were circulating for some weeks appeared to be true: the star of Laser 558 would join A 252. However: rumours about the return to the European airwaves were false, we soon would learn. Between the records listeners were invited to contact the station with phonecalls or reception-reports by letter. Also people living near the transmitter-site were invited to call in case of interference problems caused by the A 252 transmitters. Clearly this was done to gain some goodwill amongst the residents of the County Meath in Ireland. There had been strong opposition against the coming of the station to their location. Right from the beginning when it became clear that Radio Tara (the workname of the station) would erect a 250 metres mast near the Summerhill village, residents have tried to stop the operation. They had (and also have!) a wide range of objections against the situation of the transmitters and mast, varying from health fears, visual and environmental disruptions to problems regarding the building and selling of houses and traffic problems. However, all these objections were overruled. One resident however has gone to the High Court to get his right. This case will take a very long time. In the meantime towards the end of August announcements were made that the station would start Friday September 1st at 8.00h local time (9 o'clock on the continent).

When the Big Moment arrived we heard a voice counting down from 20 till 15, then there was silence for a quarter of a minute. Then a lot of people presented themselves to the listener. Among others we heard Paul Kavanagh (ex-Sunshine, head of music), Travis Baxter (station manager, ex-BBC), Andrew Turner (Laser, BBC, Blue Danube), Maryellen C'Brien, Dave Atkey (promotions coordinator, ex BBC One), Henry Owens,

Al Dunne (Q 102 and Caroline's Dave Andrews), Dusty Rhodes, Tony West (Chiltern Radio, Gary King (Radio Radio), Jeff Graham (Luxembourg).

During the first weeks of transmission a lot of reception reports were coming in at PO Box 252 in London. Every correct report is confirmed by a QSL. Remarkable however is the fact this QSL doesn't mention date and time of reception. Reactions aren't all just positive. Many remarks are made regarding the stations format. Comparison with the early days of Laser 558 is very remarkable. The variety of music is rather limited. A lot of popular dance music is played. Stock Aitken and Waterman and "things" like that. Some records are played very often, every seven quarters some records are rotating. As a result you hear records like the latest of Tears for Fears and Madonna that often that even the biggest fan gets bored with these songs in the end. We got the impression the management is aware of this fact, because at this moment listeners are invited to send in their musical preference. This "message" is aired several times a day. So it's clear we may expect some changes in the format in the near future. People ask especially for more oldies from the Sixties and Seventies. The older part of the A 252 targetgroup (which consists of people between 15 and 35 years old) isn't only interested in the music from the second part of the Eighties.

Most exiting hours on the station are from 17 till 20 o'clock (continental time). Then the Seawolf is doing "his own thing". Of course management of A 252 was very pleased when they contracted CW, but also a little bit scared. Charlie hasn't the reputation to be very humble towards institutions like the BBC (especially BBC One) and some of it's people. Therefore some limitations were agreed with him: no "attacks towards other stations, no breaks longer than 90 seconds and no comments regarding internal problems. Luckily, right from the first day Charlie made shows which did us remember the "good old days" of 1984 and 1985. His cynical remarks about the Beep and some deejays were good as ever. To give you one example: "Archbishop Ramsey following the Pope is just like me following the rules of the program-director or a Radio One deejay keeping his mouth shut and playing music". We hope the management will give him the opportunity to continue this way!

In the meantime output-power is still limited to 100 KW, because not all interference problems are solved. When full power is used finally A 252 hopes to reach 4½ millions of people on a weekly basis in Ireland, Scotland, Wales and England. British IBA-stations fear severe competition, resulting in loss of income from advertisements. A 252 plans to get £ 5,000,000 from commercials during the first year of operation, finally resulting in £ 25,000,000 in years to come. A contract with the Radio Advertising Bureau in New York has been signed. This office is going to sell airtime for commercials. It is the commercial agent for 3,500 (!) different stations in the States. It's the biggest in its kind in the whole world! Maybe now you can understand the fears of the domestic stations in Great Brittan a little bit more...